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WARNING!!!

DECEPTIVE, CONFUSING TOKEN
ENTERS THE MARKET



Readers need to be aware of a token that has just entered the market place. We have no doubt that it will soon be offered on eBay as a rare, previously unknown territorial gold token. It is nothing of the sort! It is a gold, 1 DWT token being hand struck by your editor. "Why?" you ask, would he do such a thing.

At the 1990 ANA convention in Seattle, there was a burly Fijian sitting behind a log, hand striking 1/10 ounce gold tokens. This was the Pacific Sovereign Mint's exhibit promoting a new bullion coin series they were striking from Fijian gold. Unrefined, purity was touted as 75% to 84% with a minimum of 75%. I must admit that I was intrigued by the thought of striking my own gold tokens.

This was my first inspiration to tackle this current project. After seeing this, I mention to my father that this was something I might like to do. We "designed" the necessary equipment: an anvil to hold the lower die, lower die and upper die. The lower die is tapered and is seated in the anvil. It extends out of the bottom of the anvil. This allows the die to be firmly seated, yet be easily removed. All that needed to be done is to have the dies cut. Thus began years of procrastination.

During the winter of 2004, my wife and I traveled to Chile to visit with our daughter who was an exchange student there. Since we were going that far south, there was no way I was not going to go to Tierra del Fuego. With these plans, a friend asked to me bring a White's GMT metal detector (for gold prospectors). David Guevera has several gold claims on Tierra del Fuego, including some originally mined by Julio Popper. When I met David, in the course of our visit, I asked if he was going to make gold coins like Popper did. He just smiled. This was my second inspiration to to pursue this project.

After we arrived home, I found a man to cut the dies. I wanted to have them by June 21 for the Midnight Sun Festival in downtown Fairbanks. Progress was very slow, but I finally received the upper die long after June 21. It was not satisfactory. I pulled the plug.

This year, I started to look for another die cutter. I remembered Charles Arceneaux. He had hand struck pewter tokens for my wife's basketball team in 1981. I found Charles and got in touch with him. Sure, we can have them done by May 21! And, we were well on the way. The upper die was smoothed off and roughly cut. Then, I received an email from Charles with "Panic" in the subject line. The lower die had been hardened and he could not engrave it. I have very little knowledge about such things, but seemed to remember something about heating to soften steel. Charles looked into it. He had access to a kiln and was able to anneal the die to soften it. But, because of the annealing problem, we were going to miss my June 21 deadline, but darn, we were close! The dies arrived about July 1. Now it was up to me to process the gold and strike the tokens.

A local jeweler, Tim Staton was kind enough to assist with the processing of the gold. We use raw unrefined Alaska placer gold. Estimated finess is .750 to .850. The gold can be seen in the crucible, next to an adjustable ingot mold

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

Summer is progressing, and daylight is now on the downward swing. The tourist season has been hot and cold. We can tell when one of the smaller companies are passing through town as they drop their people off down town for lunch. The larger companies (Westours and Princess) rarely bring their people downtown, preferring to keep them hustling from one of their own attractions to the next.

It is always nice to meet subscribers as they pass through. Steve Linn of Solon, Iowa stopped in. I should have taken notes but I think he said his daughter works at the Museum at UAF, and he works at a lodge down by Portage Glacier in the summer. Steve, it's a tough job but someone has to do it! I do apologize if I got some of the details incorrect.

Also making the "grand" tour was our wooden nickel guy, Dave Phillips and his wife Betty. It was great spending a little time with them. Dave has done a tremendous amount of work compiling information on Alaska wooden nickels. His 6th listing is greatly expanded. While the text pages are unnumbered, the illustrations run over 100 pages. He has informed me that this trip will require a serious addenda to this listing.

Kurtis Hawk has been busy scooping up items on eBay, and provides the bulk of the "For the Record" listings this month. Since many of the businesses represented have multiple tokens, we have tried something new in the illustrations. Hope that it meets with your approval.

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Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Masonic Penny, B-28bii	177.50
Anchorage , Native Gold & Copper, B-30a	649.99RNM
Fairbanks , Northern Cigar Store, 10¢, B-40a	56.00
Flat , Kruhm, 50¢, B-2b	67.69
Flat , Kruhm, \$1, B-2c	56.00
Ft. Yukon , Carter, 50¢, B-3c	OB295.00
Haines , Brie, 12½¢, cstamp 5, B-2b	OB295.00
Hawk Inlet , Harris, 10¢, B-1b	OB150.00
Juneau , Elks, 12½¢, B-19b	OB40.00NB
Juneau , Occidental Hotel, 12½¢, B-56c	90.00OB
Juneau , Spicketts, 12½¢, B-68a	157.50
Ketchikan , Artic Club, 25¢, B-4a	OB35.00NB
Ketchikan , Butterhorn Bakery, Lge Loaf, B-8b	195.00OB
Ketchikan , Lucky Spot, B-32b	OB60.00NB
Ketchikan , Northern Hotel, 6¼¢, B-38a	167.50
King Salmon , NCO Open Mess, B-1a	OB30.00NB
Kivalina , Reindeer & Trading, 50¢, B-1c	175.00OB
Koyukuk , Vernetti, \$1, B-3d	OB20.00NB
Latouche , Board of Trade, 6¼¢, B-1a	150.00OB
Nenana , Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3ai	25.00OB
Nome , Belmont, no denomination, B-7a	95.00OB
Nome , Columbia, 1 Drink, B-17a	95.00OB
Nome , Mulloy, 25¢, B-33a	OB125.00NB
Nome , North Pole Bakery, 10¢, B-39b	75.00OB
Nome , Polet Store, 50¢, B-41g	OB25.00NB
Palmer , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	42.09
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	28.77
Quinhagak , Jean, 25¢, B-1a	35.00OB
Selavik , Rotman, 50¢, B-1b	OB25.00NB
Seldovia , Cash Store, B-5a, 5¢	40.00NB
Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8iii?	OB29.00NB
Seward , Palace, 12½¢, B-9b	175.00OB
Seward , Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a	35.00OB
Sitka , Tom Daine Billiards, 2½¢, B-6a	350.00
Skagway , BoT, 12½¢, B-4d	OB95.00NB
Skagway , White Pass Dance Hall \$10 scrip	115.50
Valdez , Copper Block Buffet, 12½¢, B-4a	OB141.00NB
Valdez , Copper Block Buffet, 12½¢, B-4a	RLOB141.00NB
Dawson , Hutton & Pearse, 2 Bits	OB195.00NB
Dawson , Hutton & Pearse, 2 Bits	OB125.00NB
Whitehorse , Alguire, 25¢	31.05
AYPE , ¼ DWT, 1909	175.00OB
AYPE , ¼ DWT, 1909	183.50
AYPE , ½ DWT, 1909	206.27
AYPE , 1 DWT, 1909	RL171.00NB
AYPE , Encased Cent, round	102.50

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve
 BIN = Buy it now

Once again, the good material does very well, while the medium range material either goes unsold, or sells at or near opening bid. Many items went unsold.

GOLD TOKEN, CONT.

(figure 1). He melted it with a propane and oxygen torch (figure 2) and poured it into the mold. From there, he ran it through his rolling mill to a thickness of .5mm (figure 3). I had made a wild guess as to the thickness, and it worked out that with 14mm blanks, a thickness of .5mm gave a weight of just a grain or so over 1 DWT. Better over than under!



figure 1

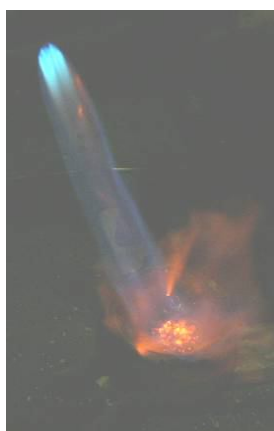


figure 2

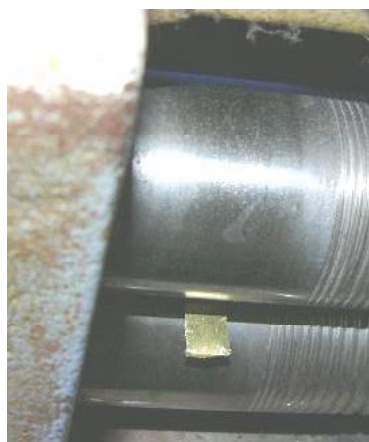


figure 3

Our first attempt resulted in a strip that was just a touch too narrow. Nevertheless, I punched out a blank and struck the first token. It was not satisfactory. It went back into the melt pile. Slag, a punched strip and a mis-strike (from the first successful striking) can be seen in figure 4.



figure 4

We melted the gold and rolled it to thickness again. The gold must be annealed (heated) between rollings to keep it soft. A disc cutter is used to punch out the blanks.

On July 20, the first three tokens were successfully struck. One for me, one for Charles Arceneaux, and one for David Guevera in Tierra del Fuego!

Striking is a simple process. The blank is carefully centered on the lower die. A jig is placed over the lower die, and the upper die is gently lowered to contact the blank. One sharp strike results in the gold blank becoming a token. The implements can be seen in figure 5. Your editor can be seen striking a token in figure 6. I

continued on page 54



figure 5

GOLD TOKEN, CONT.



figure 6



figure 7

am holding the “jig” in my left hand. This keeps the die perpendicular to the blank, and keeps my hand out of the way (closeup in figure 7)!

Now I just have to purchase a crucible and ingot mold and few other items. I have purchased a used rolling mill locally, and may be able to buy a melt furnace. If I can't find a melt furnace, I can use a friend's torch to melt the gold.

By the time you receive this, I should be well on my way to producing more tokens.

Orders are being accepted for the tokens. They are \$45 plus \$3 postage and insurance. **Send no money now.** Email or mail an order indicating your interest and to reserve a token. As they become available, I will send an invoice. Orders for single tokens will be serviced first. If you order more than one, I will strike your first token in the order received, and then complete your order after all single orders have been filled. This is because I do not know what kind of die life to expect. Hopefully, they will last until next year, and I can have some fun striking tokens during the Midnight Sun Festival!

Oh, back to our opening question: Why? Simply adding the date would avoid any confusion. But I want to sell these for a number of years to tourists. The use of a date (2005) would retard sales in future years.

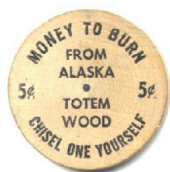
But to the bigger “Why?” (would I make this gold token). Because it is fun!

For those of you that think the images on the token look familiar, you are correct!



MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips



The Most Central (in the main body of Alaska, or close enough to legitimize this article).

Galena: This town of 713 people, originally was established close to the water on the north bank of the Yukon River in 1918, near an old Athabaskan Indian fish camp, 270 air miles west of Fairbanks.

It became a supply and transshipment point for nearby lead ore mines (hence the name Galena, a lead sulfide ore). More and more native people moved to Galena around 1920 to sell wood to the steamboats and to haul freight to the mines. A school was established in the mid 1920s and a post office opened in 1932. An air field as built during World War II.

In 1945, the community suffered a major flood. After a second severe flood in 1971, a new community site was developed 1½ miles east of the original townsite. 150 homes and all government type service buildings were constructed there.

Galena's economy is supported by its being the transportation, government and commercial center for the villages of the western interior. There are jobs associated with air transportation, some fishing and some seasonal work, e.g.; construction and fire fighting for the Bureau of Land Management. There is also a boarding school serving the region. The recent Base Realignment and Closure committee has added Galena's air base to the closure list. This will greatly impact the local economy.

The Yukon River and airplanes provide the only major transportation modes. Although there are some local roads, there is no road access to Alaska's highway system.

The only wood I am aware of from Galena is the "Hobo's Yukon Inn." I received this wood from a contact in Alaska and with it came this most interesting story:

"The Yukon Inn is located on the Yukon River in the bush community of Galena. This token circulated widely



up and down the Yukon River in the 1980s until 1992 when it was taken out of circulation. Frank "Hobo" Benson built the original Yukon Inn in the 1950s. It burned down in the early 1980s and he rebuilt it across the street from where the first one stood. Hobo passed away in September 1990. The Yukon Inn was purchased by Archie Thurmond, a local resident. These tokens were taken out of circulation and a new plastic one was issued for "Archie's Yukon Inn." Archie passed away in the summer of 2001 in a boating accident. The family retained ownership and Archie's daughter, Marlene, is the manager and runs the place. These old tokens are still accepted but it is extremely rare to see one. The phone number on the token is still valid.

"When one of the wood tokens is received now, it is thrown into a bag in the Yukon Inn's office. There are between 100 and 200 in the bag in various conditions. There were 1,000 originally made.

"Galena cannot be reached by road. One must fly in."

I would love to go there one day, to see if that "bag of woods" is still in the Yukon Inn's office!

SPITZBERGEN FANTASY



Numerous commemorative coins have been issued for "Arktikugol" a Russian coal mining company on Spitzbergen. The latest notes the passing of Pope John Paul II. Only 2,000 of the 10 Ruble coins were struck at the St. Petersburg mint.

It must be noted that these must be considered non-legal tender, non-circulating tokens.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ALASKA: 4-23 Infantry, Stryker, Tomahawks Unleash Hell. Dark blue, light blue, yellow, white and black on bronze.

USS ALASKA: Submarine, SSBN 732. Blue, white, yellow and red on bronze. Oval, 44mm high (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ALASKA: 103rd Civil Support Team, Survival is not compulsory. Blue, white, yellow, red, white and black on oxidized silver finish.



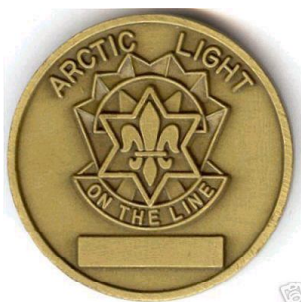
USS JUNEAU: Amphibious Transport Dock Ship, LPD 10. Yellow, black, light blue and dark blue. 40mm, obverse is bronze, reverse is oxidized silver color (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: 611th Air Intelligence Squadron. Blue, white, purple, red and yellow on oxidized silver finish.



KEFLAVIK NAS, ICELAND: 85th (maybe 35th) Security Forces Sq., presented by the Commander. Light blue, dark blue, yellow, white and red on oxidized silver finish.



FT. GREELY, FT. RICHARDSON, FT. WAINWRIGHT: Arctic Light, 6th Infantry Division (Light). Bronze.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most Challenge Coins are about 38 to 40mm, though some are larger. Sizes are not usually reported in eBay listings. All are shown at approximately 38mm, but it must be realized that unless the size is noted in the description, this may not be accurate.

FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Barry's Branof Lounge, set of 7, all 31mm, all gold printing on plastic. Premium Drink (blue), Beer (brown), Premium Beer (gray), Well Drink (green), Call Drink (red), Extra Premium Drink (white) and XX Premium Drink (yellow).



ANCHORAGE: Carlos Fine Mexican Food, good for a drink. White on red plastic, 38mm.



ANCHORAGE: Carpentier Lounge, set of 7, all 31mm plastic. With black printing: Beer (yellow), Mixed Drink or Beer (brown), Whiskey (purple), Pitcher (gray), and Mixed Drink (orange). With white printing: Mixed Drink (black) and Can Soda (green).



ANCHORAGE: American Legion Post 34, Chappie James, set of 4, all 28mm plastic. With black printing: Wine (pink), Whiskey (blue), Beer (yellow). With white printing: Drink (black).



ANCHORAGE: George's Homestead Lounge, good for one drink, set of 2, both 41mm plastic: silver on black and yellow on black.



ANCHORAGE: VFW 10252, good for one drink, set of three, all 38mm, white printing on plastic: brown, red and gray.



DELTA JUNCTION: Delta-Clearwater 911, Moose Lodge, When you get around TUIT: Drink, gold on black; Beer, silver on red. 38mm plastic.

FOR THE RECORD, cont.



EAGLE RIVER: Lions Club, Club of the year 2002-2003, District 49A. Good for One Free Drink, gold on red plastic, 41mm.



FAIRBANKS: Boatel Bar, Borrowed from... Set of three, all gold printing on 38mm plastic; blue, green and white. Green previously reported.



FAIRBANKS: Eagles, Aerie 1037. Bronze and cupronickel reported last month. A brass version with reeded edge has also been issued. All 34mm.



HOMER: The Alibi, It's your story and we are sticking to it, \$4.00. Gold on purple plastic, 28mm.



HYDER: Glacier Inn, \$1 off Bar Drink, metallic green printing on white plastic, 29mm.



JUNEAU: Lucky Lady Bar, one free drink, white printing on green plastic, 32mm.



KETCHIKAN: Mike's Elbow Room, set of three, all 41mm plastic with black printing: Beer (yellow), Top Shelf (gray) and Cocktail (purple).



KETCHIKAN: Moose Lodge 224, good for one drink. Brass, 34mm

All "For the Record" items this month (except the Fairbanks Eagles) submitted by Kurtis Hawk.

ALASKA YUKON PACIFIC EXPOSITION SPORTS AWARDS



THEY'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

From eBay, a pair of sports awards medals from the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. Unfortunately, the images were not very good.

Upper left and center is a "Junior Championship" medal for discus. The obverse legend is "Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, MDCCCLXXXIII," (1884). The reverse, enlarged in the center, has "Champion" around the top, "Junior" centered in the field, and then engraved "AYP Throwing the Discus, 1909." Small lettering at the bottom rim is "Solid Gold, Dieges & Clust." The ribbon is red, white and blue. The medal weighs .75 ounces on a postal scale.

The second medal is a bronze third place medal for the 16 Pound Hammer Throw. The obverse has a scene not unlike other AYPE medals. It carries the legend "AYP" in the upper left corner with "Exposition" below. At the bottom border is "Championship." The reverse is engraved "16 LB Hammer" and stamped "Hansen," for the manufacturer Albert Hansen of Seattle. The bar carries the word "Third."

Both of these medals have been attributed to Burwell Bantz, a well known athlete and star tackle at the University of Washington about 1906



From the seller's description: "ALASKA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 1960 NGC MS 66 BRONZE VERY SCARCE...THIS IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE SEEN AT THIS GRADE...MS 66....MOST ARE XF/AU."

I have never seen an XF/AU of this medal. All should be this good. And what is NGC thinking - slabbing this piece? Sold at opening bid of \$289.